March 18, 2013

Dr. Christopher Portier
Petition Administrator
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
4770 Buford Highway NE, (MS F-59),
Atlanta, GA 30341

## To Whom It May Concern:

We are a group of households located in Mt. Pleasant Township, Washington County, PA that is extremely concerned about the potential health impacts of the Carter centralized wastewater impoundment located close to our homes. We are writing to request that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) perform a public health assessment and/or an exposure investigation in our community to determine the health effects and risks from exposure to the hazardous air and water pollutants released by this impoundment. The impoundment is owned and operated by Range Resources Corporation and is located between Fort Cherry Road and Walnut Road in McDonald, PA. Please see the attached map and photographs for a detailed description of the impoundment pits and residences surrounding this impoundment.

We request ATSDR to determine exposure levels and make the appropriate recommendations to regulatory agencies, industry and the community that is necessary to mitigate the harmful health effects of chemical exposures. We are advocating for Range Resources, the company that owns the impoundments, to use closed loop or pit-less drilling systems and closed containment systems to eliminate chemical exposures in our community. Depending on the results of the analysis, we encourage ATSDR to specifically recommend that Range Resources use these technologies to better protect public health.

Based on preliminary evidence of air emissions and health results, we believe that our health is being negatively impacted. We are particularly concerned about exposure to volatile organic compound (VOCs), sulfur compounds, and any other potentially harmful pollutants emitted from these facilities. We already have data available that would be useful for ATSDR to use in evaluating health exposures. For instance, multiple residents living close to the impoundment had their blood and urine analyzed and were told by doctors that they had chronic exposure to Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). Please refer to the health documents we sent you for more information. Some doctors advised families to consider moving away from the impoundment as the levels were high enough to cause concern. An individual from one household with over 30 years of experience in the industry sampled air quality from locations close to impoundment, and has possession of data showing high levels of some harmful pollutants. For instance, total VOCs reached 600 ppb in a matter of 15 minutes at one household. In addition, Duquesne University and Yale University researchers have ground water and surface water samples from properties surrounding the site.

We believe that the main pathway of exposure for residents is through breathing in pollutants that evaporate or degrade from the chemicals contained in the impoundment, or are released to the environment and then volatilized into the community's air. We know of a number of households that are potentially affected, many of

which have signed this letter. At least three households have called the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to report issues related to air and water quality, but have not received an adequate response or action. At least two households called the National Response Center. At least one household also called ATSDR and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to report these issues.

Again, we are particularly concerned about living in close proximity to the Carter centralized wastewater impoundment and request an expedited review of our situation and appropriate action to protect our health. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Name (Print)	Address	No. in Home	Signature
	±		

Name (Print)	Address	No. in Home	Signature

## Organizations that Support this Petition

Joseph Otis Minott, Esq. Executive Director Clean Air Council 135 South 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300 Philadelphia, PA 19103

Deborah Goldberg Managing Attorney Earthjustice 156 William St., Suite 800 New York, NY 10038-5326

Bruce Baizel, Director Earthworks' Oil & Gas Accountability Project

Erika Staaf Clean Water Advocate PennEnvironment

## Attachments:

Map of Carter Impoundment and surrounding area

Photographs of Carter Impoundment

## Cc:

Shawn M. Garvin Regional Administrator US EPA Region 3 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19103

Diana Esher, Air Protection Division Director US EPA Region 3 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19103

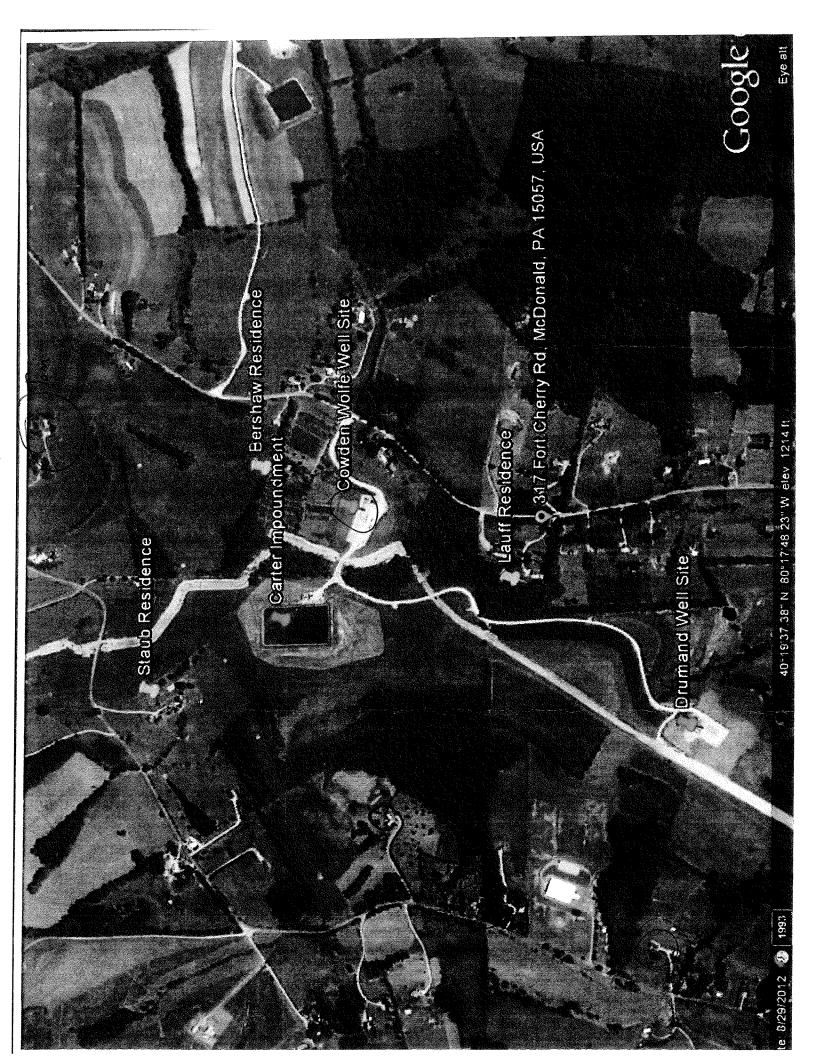
Secretary Michael Krancer Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Rachel Carson State Office Building 400 Market Street Harrisburg, PA 17101

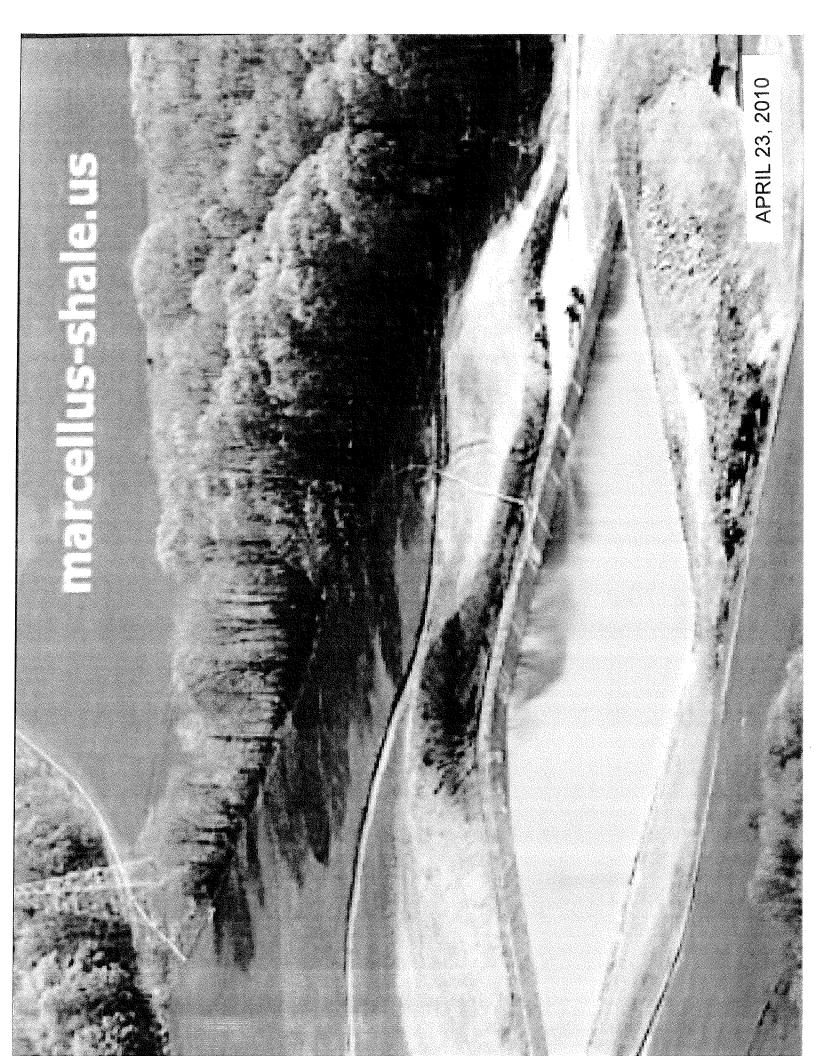
Joyce E. Epps, Esquire
Director, Bureau of Air Quality
Department of Environmental Protection
P. O. Box 8468
12th Floor Rachel Carson State Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Lora Werner, Sr. Regional Representative Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Region 3 Department of Health and Human Services 1650 Arch Street (3HS00) Philadelphia, PA 19103

Robert H. Helverson, Regional Representative Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Region 3 Department of Health and Human Services 1650 Arch Street (3HS00) Philadelphia, PA 19103

Joanne Corte Grossi, MIPP, Regional Director U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region III Suite 436 150 S. Independence Mall West Philadelphia, PA 19106







July 29th, 2012

July 29th, 2012